
HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 1, 1879.

BRIGADIER GENERAL E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding.

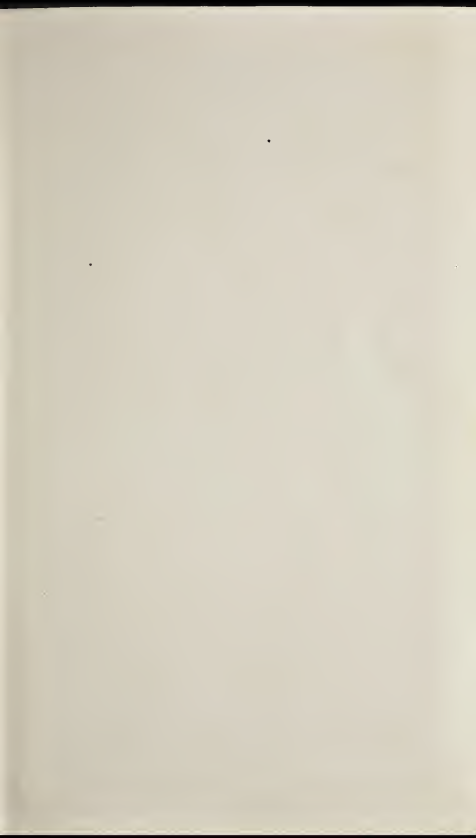
REPORT
UNDER THE
RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
DATED JUNE 25, 1879, RELATIVE TO
CERTAIN INFORMATION
CONNECTED WITH HIS DEPARTMENT, AND THE
SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF THE
TEXAS FRONTIER.

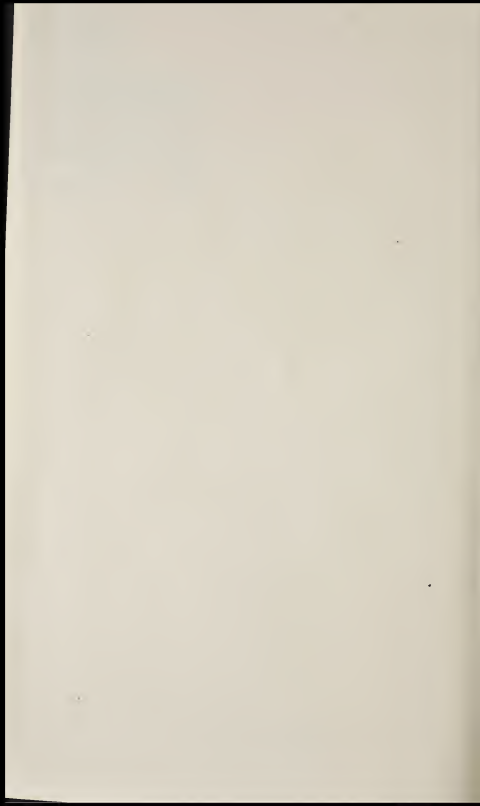
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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *December 1, 1879.*

The Adjutant General of the Army,

Washington, D. C.

(Thro' Headquarters Mil. Div. of the Missouri.)

Sir :

Under the reference to me, by your endorsement of June 28, 1879, of the Resolution of the House of Representatives, dated June 25, 1879, (copy with E, herewith), relative to certain specified information connected with this military department, and the security and efficient protection of the Texas frontier, I have the honor to report, as follows:

1.—My annual reports, dated October 2, 1878, and October 1, 1879, respectively, will indicate the "*massacres, raids and depredations*"—with list of killed, wounded, and captured—since the 1st day of January, 1878; and I submit said reports, marked A and B, as part of this.

2.—The number and class of troops under my command, and where stationed, will be found in Abstract C, from which will appear the numerical strength, as follows:

Present and Absent.

DATE.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Aggregate.
January 31, 1878.....	294	3492	3786
June 30, 1878	293	3505	3859
December 31, 1878	286	3636	3922
June 30, 1879	254	3639	3884
October 31, 1879.....	248	3661	3669

Under orders, of December 3, 1877, from Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, the headquarters and six companies of the 4th Cavalry were sent to this department; and, under orders of October 3, 1879, from the same source, that force was transferred to the Department of the Missouri.

Under orders, dated March 31, 1879, from the Headquarters of the Army, the 22nd regiment of Infantry was ordered to this command, to relieve the 10th regiment of Infantry; but the orders, of May 13, 1879, from division headquarters, turned four of the companies aside for service in the Department of the Missouri.

Aside from the expeditions and scouts by the troops, as reported in the annual reports A and B, the commands not engaged in them have been employed in protecting the people settling the country adjacent to the respective posts; also their property, and that of the United States.

3.—The following appropriations, needed for the construction of posts, &c., I view as necessary to give security and efficient protection to the lives and property of American citizens on the Texas frontier:

One two-company post, at or near Guadalupe Peak, on the route of the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

One two-company post, at or near Presidio del Norte.

One two-company post, on the new road to Presidio del Norte, between the river Pecos and Fort Davis.

One four-company post, at San Felipe, on the same road.

The foregoing posts not to be erected until the Government shall have secured valid title to the land upon which they may be built,—the cost of building not to exceed \$200,000.

A special appropriation, of \$10,000, is needed for an Artesian well on the new military road to Fort Davis, between Myer's spring and Pena Negra.

Relative to additional troops, revolutions are likely to occur, at any time, in all the Mexican states bordering upon Texas. One has just occurred in Chihuahua. These revolutions turn loose bands of outlaws to plunder the defenseless settlers of either country. Savages, whose homes are in the wilds of Mexico, or who may escape from the United States and take refuge there, are continually driving off stock, and murdering the people of the Rio Grande valley, and the immense and thinly settled country adjacent thereto. Demands to quell outbreaks in other departments have reduced my already small command, so that now it is inadequate to meet the calls upon it. It is to be hoped this condition of affairs, which has been represented by the Army and Division Commanders, will have the attention which its importance deserves.

In this connection, I append, marked D, copy of a letter, dated the 28th ultimo, inviting attention to revolutions and complications which have begun in Mexican states bordering on this department.

4.—In general, further information, as to the "*condition and character*" of the frontier—embracing ranches, settlements, wells, timber, crops, grasses, and minerals—will appear from a summary, marked E.

The accompanying map—F—will, among other things, indicate the location of the posts, camps, ranches, settlements, &c.

Connected with the "*peace and safety of the frontier*," the incursions into Mexico, by Indians from the United States, should receive the prompt and serious attention of the Government.

General Trevino, commanding Division of the North, Army of Mexico, by letter, of June 11, 1879, invited my attention to the subject, and, July 9, 1879, in forwarding that communication for the information of the Lieutenant General and other authorities, and transmission to the Department of State, I remarked, as follows:

"In this connection, I beg to invite attention to reports, heretofore forwarded—particularly to that, A, of Captain Norvell, 10th Cavalry, by my endorsement, of August 24, 1878, and a more recent one, B, from First Lieutenant Bullis, 24th Infantry, by endorsement, of June 3, 1879. The reports from officers on duty at the West Texas posts, uniformly attribute nearly all the recent raids and depredations committed near the posts, to the reservation Indians.

If these Indians are so detrimental to the interest of settlers in West Texas, it is not to be expected that they will have more respect for the unprotected settlements on the Mexican frontier. I venture to suggest, they are now not in the same unrestrained condition in which they were when the XI Article of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was abrogated,—when they had a country from which to get food. On the contrary, they have been gathered on reservations, so called, and the United States has assumed the responsibility of restraining and providing for them.

If the Government fails to provide for them, it becomes a question how far it may be responsible for the consequences of a failure which compels the Indians to depredate upon the nearest neighbors, including those in Mexico, for the necessities of life.

I believe a careful scrutiny as to the ration of food, issued to each Indian on the Forts Stanton and Sill reservations, will establish that it is not enough to sustain life."

* * * *

The subject, under a reference, July 12, 1879, from division headquarters, of a communication from the Department of State, enclosing copy of dispatch No. 941, April 30, 1879, from the Minister of the United States to Mexico, was further referred to, and, in reporting thereon, I said:

* * * *

"In connection with alleged raids of Indians, heretofore referred to, from the United States reservations, into that part of Chihuahua opposite my command, and into Coahuila, I am clearly of the opinion that such have occurred, and that the only way to prevent a continuation is to remove the Indians from the vicinity of the temptation, or feed them sufficiently well, thus to make it unnecessary for them to plunder for food, either in Texas or Mexico."

* * * *

As recent as October 13, last, I learned, through the commanding officer District of New Mexico, "*that large parties of well armed Apaches are reported going south from Mescalero (Fort Stanton) agency;*" and October 18, in connection with the movements of the said Indians, I was duly advised, from division headquarters, that the commanding general Department of the Missouri had reported that "*a count of Indians at Mescalero agency shows only 33 male Indians present.*"

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier General, Commanding.

(7 enclosures.)

ROSTER

Brig. Gen. E. O. C. Ord, U. S. Army, Comdg.**Personal Staff.**

Captain H G Brown, 12th Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.
 First Lieutenant J C Ord, 25th Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.
 Second Lieutenant W. T. Howard, 2nd Artillery, Aide-de-Camp.

Department Staff.

Major Thomas M Vincent, Adjutant General's Department, Adjutant General.

†Lieutenant Colonel J S Mason, 4th Infantry, Acting Assistant Inspector General.

Second Lieutenant W T Howard, 2nd Artillery, Acting Judge Advocate.

Major Benj C Card, Quartermaster's Department, Chief Quartermaster.

Captain C B Penrose, Commissary of Subsistence, Chief Commissary of Subsistence, Depot and Purchasing Commissary of Subsistence, San Antonio, Texas.

Surgeon J R Smith, Medical Department, Medical Director.

Major C M Terrell, Pay Department, Chief Paymaster.

*Captain W R Livermore, Corps of Engineers, Chief Engineer Officer.

Captain F H Philpps, Ordnance Department, Chief Ordnance Officer, and commanding San Antonio Arsenal.

First Lieutenant A M Raphall, 11th Infantry, on special duty at Department Headquarters.

San Antonio, Texas.

Captain
 Captain
 Sgt
 Captain
 Captain

District of the Rio Grande.

(Headquarters Fort Brown, Texas.)

Colonel George Sykes, 20th Infantry, commanding.

First Lieutenant J B Rodman, 20th Infantry, Act Asst Adjutant General.

Capt T J Eckerson, Assistant Quartermaster U S Army, Chief and Disbursing Quartermaster.

District of the Nueces

(Headquarters Fort Clark, Texas.)

Colonel D S Stanley, 22nd Infantry, commanding.

First Lieutenant H H Ketchum, 22nd Infantry, Act Asst Adjutant General.

8th CAVALRY.

A
 Fort Clark.

Captains..... A B Wells
 First Lieutenants..... J B Hickey
 Second Lieutenants..... J Guest, Jr.....

10th CAVALRY.

Fort Elliott, Texas.

Captains.....
 First Lieutenants..... (Dept. of the Missouri)
 Second Lieutenants.....

2nd ARTILLERY.

Fort McHenry, Md.

Captains.....
 First Lieutenants..... (Dept. of the East.)
 Second Lieutenants.....

20th INFANTRY.

San Antonio.

Captains..... J H Patterson
 First Lieutenants..... Herbert Cushman.....
 Second Lieutenants..... §Palmer Tilton.....

B

§§ Fort Clark.

J D Stevenson G W Chi
 O B Boyd..... *H W Sp
 E A Ellis..... C H Lest

||| Fort Stockton.

†Thomas J Spencer... C D Viek
 †T W Jones..... W H Bec
 John Bigelow, Jr.... †Leightoi

Washington, D. C.

(Dept. of the East.) (Dept. of the East.) (Dept. of the East.)

Fort Brown.

J C Bates..... R M Tayl
 W H Hamner..... †Alexan
 J A Irous.....

92d INFANTRY

Fort Griffin.

Fort McKavett.

Fort...

C.

Return of the Department of Texas, commanded by Brigadier General E. O. C. Ord, U. S. Army, for the month of January, 1878, with recapitulatory statements from the Returns for the months of June and December, 1878, and June and October, 1879. Also Roster of Troops, December, 1879.

DATE.	TROOPS.	PRESENT.										ABSENT.										PRESENT AND ABSENT.										AGGREGATE FOR LAST MONTHLY RETURN.				MEMORANDA.		REMARKS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
		Number of Companies.	Per Duty.	On extra or special duty.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.		Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Sick.	In arrest or suspension.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	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NOTE.—Body of Return; names of the general and staff officers, present and absent; and lists of posts and stations in the department, with their garrisons and names of commanders, (all, as sent in manuscript to the Adjutant General of the Army), omitted,—there not being, at hand, the necessary facilities for printing in full.

ROSTER OF TROOPS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1879.

Brig. Gen. E. O. C. Ord, U. S. Army, Comdg.

Capt. H. G. Brown, 15th Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.
First Lieutenant J. C. Ord, 25th Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.
Second Lieutenant W. T. Howard, 2d Artillery, Aide-de-Camp.

Department Staff.

Major Thomas M. Jones, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.
First Lieutenant John S. Mason, 4th Infantry, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.
Second Lieutenant W. T. Howard, 2d Artillery, Acting Adjutant.

Major H. C. Carl, Quartermaster's Department, Chief Quartermaster.

Captain C. B. Payne, Commissary of Subsistence, Chief Commissary of Subsistence, Dept. and Purchasing Commissary of Subsistence, San Antonio, Texas.

Surgeon R. S. Smith, Medical Department, Medical Director.

Major C. M. Terrell, Pay Department, Chief Paymaster.

*Captain W. R. Lister, Corps of Engineers, Chief Engineer Officer.

Captain F. H. Phelps, Ordnance Department, Chief Ordnance Officer, and commanding 2d Artillery Arsenal.

First Lieutenant A. H. Hayball, 15th Infantry, on special duty at Department Headquarters.

FOR ADVANCEMENT, TEXAS.



Captain T. S. Becken, Fort Brown, Texas.
Captain George W. Rowley, Depot Quartermaster, San Antonio, Texas.
Captain E. B. Brown, Fort Worth, Texas.
Captain A. E. Millmore, Fort Clark.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Surgeon C. E. Goddard, Fort McKavett.
Assistant Surgeon W. E. Waters, Fort Clark.
Assistant Surgeon H. E. Brown, Fort Brown.
Assistant Surgeon R. S. Taylor, San Antonio.
Assistant Surgeon Frank Medford, Fort Brown.
Assistant Surgeon M. McArthur, San Antonio.
Assistant Surgeon J. V. Deane, Fort Concho.
Assistant Surgeon R. H. Wile, Fort Fort Concho.
Assistant Surgeon D. G. Vard, Fort Davis.

ACTING ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

J. B. Baggett, Fort Clark.
J. A. Biddington, Fort Kingdon.
J. M. Boyl, Fort Clark.
J. A. Wolf, Fort McKavett.
J. M. Frost, Fort Concho.
J. S. Smith, Fort Concho.
J. B. Harmer, Fort Brown.
T. H. Davis, Fort Brown.
E. McLean, Fort Clark.

Assistant Surgeon A. A. Yeamans, Fort Griffin.
Assistant Surgeon J. H. King, Fort McIntosh.
Assistant Surgeon E. W. Hall, Fort Concho.
Assistant Surgeon J. D. Hall, Fort Concho.
Assistant Surgeon E. T. Connelley, San Diego.
Assistant Surgeon W. C. Shattuck, San Felipe.
Assistant Surgeon J. P. Smith, Fort Griffin.
Assistant Surgeon W. J. Carter, Fort Concho.

J. F. Ward, Fort Davis.
J. D. McLean, Fort Clark.
J. M. Boyl, Fort Clark.
J. W. C. Henderson, Fort Concho.
J. M. Filly, Fort Concho.
P. H. Hingray, Fort Davis.
J. B. Kingley, Fort Davis.
W. H. Hille, accompanying recruits to Fort Concho and Davis.

PAY DEPARTMENT.

Major A. E. Baker, San Antonio.
Major J. W. Wilson, Fort Concho—temporarily at San Antonio.
Major J. E. Wason, San Antonio—temporarily at Fort Brown.
Major George V. Lindman, San Antonio—temporarily at Fort Brown.

POST CHAPLAINS.

St. B. Cattle, Fort Brown.
B. H. Balfour, Fort Concho.
G. W. Denham, Fort Concho.

SUB POSTS.

Oriskany Springs, Co. K, 5th Infantry.
Camp Charlotte, Co. A, 5th Infantry.
Fort Concho, Co. F and G, 25th Infantry.
St. B. Cattle, Co. B, 5th Cavalry.
St. B. Cattle, Co. D, 5th Cavalry.
St. B. Cattle, Co. E, 5th Cavalry.

District of the Rio Grande.

(Headquarters Fort Brown, Texas.)

Colonel George Rykes, 20th Infantry, commanding.

First Lieutenant J. B. Bodman, 20th Infantry, Act. Asst. Adjutant General.

Capt. T. J. Anderson, Assistant Quartermaster U. S. Army, Chief and Majoring Quartermaster.

District of the Pecos.

(Headquarters Ft. Concho, Texas.)

Colonel D. S. Stanley, 22d Infantry, commanding.

First Lieutenant R. H. Ketchum, 22d Infantry, Act. Asst. Adjutant General.

Capt. T. J. Anderson, Assistant Quartermaster U. S. Army, Chief and Majoring Quartermaster.

First Lieutenant J. M. Webster, 22d Infantry, Act. Asst. Adj. Gen.

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First Lieutenant J. M. Webster, 22d Infantry, Act. Asst. Adj. Gen.

Field and Staff, 10th Cavalry.

(Headquarters Ft. Ringgold, Texas.)

*Colonel T. H. Vail, Ft. Ringgold.

Major D. H. Leachman, Ft. Ringgold.

Major J. A. W. Cox, Ft. Clark.

Major S. S. Sumner, Ft. McIntosh.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant A. G. Bennett, Fort Concho.

First Lieutenant and Reg. Qmr. G. F. Foster, Fort Ringgold.

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Field and Staff, 10th Cavalry.

(Headquarters Ft. Ringgold, Texas.)

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Major D. H. Leachman, Ft. Ringgold.

Major J. A. W. Cox, Ft. Clark.

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Field and Staff, 20th Infantry.

(Headquarters Ft. Brown, Texas.)

Colonel George Rykes, Ft. Brown.

First Lieutenant J. B. Bodman, 20th Infantry, Act. Asst. Adjutant General.

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MBER, 1879.

AGENT.

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SUB POSTS.

Grierson's Springs..	Co. K, 25th Infantry.
Camp Charlotte.....	Co. A, 25th Infantry.
Pena Colorado .....	.....	Cos. F and G, 25th Infantry.
Frazier's Rancho.....	.....	Co. B, 10th Cavalry.
Escondidos.....	.....	Detch't of 10th Cav., and 25th Infantry.

Field and Staff, 24th Infantry. (Hdqs. Fort Duncan, Texas.)	Field and Staff, 25th Infantry. (Hdqs. Ft. Davis, Texas.)
Colonel J H Potter, Washington, D C. Lieutenant Colonel John E Yard, Fort Duncan. Major R F O'Beirne, Ft Ringgold. First Lieutenant and Adjutant W H W James, Fort Duncan. First Lieutenant and Reg Qmr B M Custer, Fort Duncan. Chaplain J C Lavery, Ft Duncan.	*Colonel G L Andrews, Ft Davis. Lieutenant Colonel M M Blunt, Ft. Stockton. Major Joseph Bush, Ft Concho. First Lieutenant and Adjutant D B Wilson, Fort Davis. First Lieutenant and Reg Qmr H P Ritzius, Fort Davis. Chaplain G G Mullins, Ft Davis.

L	M	Recapitulation, by Companies, at Posts.
Fort Clark. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT BROWN.—Headquarters, and B, D, G, I, K, 20th Infantry; L, 8th Cavalry; E and G, 2nd Artillery 8
Stockton. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	Fort McHenry, Md. (Dept. of the East.)	FT. CLARK.—Headquarters, and H, 22nd In- fantry; A, B, C, D, H, L, M; 8th Cavalry; F, L, 2nd Artillery; C, E, F, H, 20th In- fantry 14
Fort Clark. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT CONCHO.—Headquarters, and D, E, F, M, 10th Cavalry; A, G, K, 25th Infantry.. 7
Fort Davis. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT DAVIS.—Headquarters, and E, H, I, 25th Infantry; C, H, K, 10th Cavalry..... 6
Fort Duncan. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT DUNCAN.—Headquarters, and A, B, F, 24th Infantry 3
Fort Griffin. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT GRIFFIN.—A, 22nd Infantry..... 1
Fort McIntosh. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT MCINTOSH.—D, E, H, 24th Infantry; F, 8th Cavalry..... 4
Fort McKavett. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT MCKAVETT.—B, C, G, I, 22nd Infantry. 4
Fort Ringgold. S B M Young J M Ropes J A Johnston	Fort Concho. S T Norvell C E Nordstrom M F Eggleston	FORT RINGGOLD.—Headquarters, and G, 8th Cavalry..... 4

D.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *November 28, 1879.*

The Adjutant General,

Military Division of the Missouri,

Chicago, Illinois.

Sir :

Through the removal of the headquarters and six companies of the 4th Cavalry from this department, and the detention of the four companies of the 22nd Infantry in the Department of the Missouri, the military force of my command has, in my opinion, been reduced below that necessary for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier. I, therefore, have the honor to request that, at least, the absent companies of the 22nd Infantry, and 10th Cavalry, be ordered here, without delay.

The uncertain condition of affairs on the lower river, resulting from the necessary removal, to the District of the Nueces, of four companies of the 8th Cavalry, will appear from copies of communication herewith enclosed.

The revolution, in the frontier states of Mexico, has commenced in the State of Chihuahua, and, doubtless, will extend to other States; and raids into the United States, as well as summary demands for troops from this side, to protect American interests on the other, are inevitable. To meet that demand, restrain our reservation Indians, and be prepared to execute orders in regard to raids from Mexico, which Mexican troops, during a revolution, cannot prevent, the troops now in the department are wholly inadequate.

I further invite attention to the fact that Victoria's large band has left the Department of the Missouri, and is now roaming in Chihuahua and Coahuila,—states immediately on the border of this department. Those Indians, doubtless, will make their forays within this command, whenever it suits them to do so.

See newspaper slips herewith; the statements in them are confirmed by private letters from reliable sources.

* * * * *

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier General,

Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *December 1, 1879,*

OFFICIAL:

THOMAS M. VINCENT,

Assistant Adjutant General.



E.

Abstract of Reports,

UNDER THE FOLLOWING :

FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS,
First Session.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

June 25, 1879.

On motion of Mr. Upson.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to instruct, if not incompatible with the public interest, Brigadier General E. O. C. Ord, commanding the military department of Texas, to inform, through the Secretary of War, as early as practicable, the House of Representatives of the United States, what massacres, raids and depredations, if any, have been committed by Indians and Mexicans, or either, or by other lawless bands, within said department, since the first day of January, 1878; also, to report, through the Secretary of War, the number and class of troops under his command, and where and how stationed or quartered, the services performed by said troops during said periods, whether or not, any additional troops, and expenditures in the construction of posts, roads, wells, and tanks, or otherwise, and if so, what are needed to give security and efficient protection to the lives and property of American citizens upon the Texas frontier; and generally to give such information as will show the condition and character of, and tend to secure peace and safety upon said frontier.

ATTEST:

GEO. M. ADAMS,
Clerk.

To secure, in part, the desired information, the following instructions were promulgated:

TELEGRAM.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, July 5, 1879.

Commanding Officer

Fort Brown.

With reference to your post, the Commanding General directs that you report, in detail, promptly by mail, massacres, depredations, or damages, if any, committed by Indians or Mexicans, or other lawless bands, not yet reported, since the first day of October, 1878; also, for the same period, all scouts, if any, not yet reported. In addition, send maps of the country, and statements relative to settlements, cattle or other ranches, indicating extent of, and situation of same, requiring protection.

Add as to mail routes which are, or ought to be, guarded,

VINCENT,

Assistant Adjutant General.

[Same sent to the commanding officers Forts Ringgold, McIntosh, Duncan, Clark, McKavett, Grifflin, Concho, Davis and Stockton.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, August 16, 1879.

Commanding Officer

Fort....., Texas.

Sir:

In connection with the telegram, from these headquarters, of the 5th ultimo, and the Resolution of the House of Representatives, dated June 25th, 1879, (a copy sent you July 7th, ultimo), the Commanding General desires additional information under the following headings:

WELLS.—The likelihood of water being obtained, as indicated by the geological character of the country, through artesian wells, or by boring. To this, please add such information as you can obtain relative to the character of the earth's strata passed through in digging ordinary wells; also the properties of the water therefrom.

TIMBER.—Extent of, and an enumeration of the varieties.

CROPS.—Those now produced, and the chances of future additions.

GRASSES.—Their extent, and character for stock purposes.

MINERALS.—Their extent and variety.

The area of country, in connection with the foregoing, is left to your determination. It should be sufficiently extensive to meet the requirements of the Resolution, as to the "condition and character" of the frontier.

The report need not be forwarded earlier than October 20th, next, thus to permit sufficient time for its careful preparation.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS M. VINCENT,

Assistant Adjutant General.

DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE.

Report, October 10, 1879, by Colonel George Sykes, 20th Infantry, commanding.

"Most of the information has been received from old residents of this region. There are no surveys, geological or otherwise, in the records of this district.

WELLS.

The soil from the mouth of the Rio Grande, extending from ninety (90) to one hundred (100) miles up the river, and from thirty (30) to sixty (60) miles back, is wholly alluvial to a great depth, as shown by the ordinary wells sunk in that section, in which good water is often obtained at a depth generally of from thirty (30) to fifty (50) feet, but at times, wells of this depth produce salt or brackish water. The plan of drive-wells has been tried unsuccessfully, the quicksands clogging them up; the soil being composed of sand and clay.

After passing that distance up the Rio Grande, a stratum of limestone-rock is reached near the surface, which extends through the north end of the counties of Hidalgo and Cameron, (known as "The Sands") in which good water is obtained in abundance, often within ten (10) feet of the surface. There are wells in the county of Hidalgo, sunk through limestone, to a depth of thirty (30) feet, which are in the most favorable, striking veins of water which withstand the most severe droughts known in this section. Artesian wells could be sunk through some parts of this country named, but there is a general impression that by digging below a certain depth, the water becomes salty; wells that furnish good water for years, by digging them deeper in order to increase the supply, became at once salty and worthless. From the foregoing it will be seen that the character of the

earth is generally unstratified—no wells have been sunk deep enough to show whether or no there are any underlying strata of rock—unless there is stratification of some kind, with proper extent and pitch, there can be no artesian wells.

TIMBER.

The principal timber in the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo, and extending a long distance up the Rio Grande, and from thirty (30) to sixty (60) miles back, is the mesquite, interspersed, on the water-courses, with ebony, ash, hackberry, and elm, and the country is in most part covered with a dense undergrowth, or chapparal.

The region known as "The Sands," about sixty (60) miles from the river, has large "mottes" of live-oak, extending from the Gulf for a long distance.

Of the two counties named, from sixteen (16) to twenty (20) per cent. of the area is timbered, and increasing rapidly of late years, owing perhaps, to the absence of fires, and spreading of seeds by grazing animals.

CROPS.

The cultivation of the soil on the lower Rio Grande, is almost exclusively confined to the "bottom lands" of the river, owing in part to the severe droughts that prevail so often in this section. Corn is the principal crop raised, but seldom enough grown for home consumption. Cotton is raised to a small extent—two hundred bales would probably cover all that is exported annually from this valley. Some beans, garden-truck, and the sugar-cane is grown—more attention has been paid, the last few years, to the sugar-cane, which could be increased almost indefinitely, the soil being peculiarly adapted to that crop, the seasons being longer than any other part of the United States now devoted to sugar. A plantation, with sugar-mill, has been in successful operation for several years eight miles below Fort Brown, on the river, and there will doubtless be others ere long.

The whole region of back-country, away from the river, is devoted to stock-raising, for which it is well adapted at all seasons, the inhabitants paying scarcely any attention to farming.

GRASSES.

There is probably no better grazing region in the State of Texas, than can be found in the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo. In "The Sands," where the most severe droughts scarcely affect the grass—which grass also makes a good quality of hay, when cut and cured properly, and lasting at all seasons—the grasses near the river, at times scarce during the dry spells (of frequent occurrence in this country), excepting a species of salt-grass that withstands all droughts and makes good pasturage at all times, but is not fit for hay.

The river-bottoms produce grass in abundance, but none of a superior quality for hay, although used to a large extent here for home consumption.

MINERALS.

There are no minerals known in this section, nor any developed, excepting lime of fair quality.

The kind generally used in this section is quarried and burned in Hidalgo county, and is in great abundance."

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Fort Brown.

Report, October 8, 1879, by Major C. Rodney Layton, 20th Infantry, commanding.

"Artesian wells have been bored at several places in the State, and people, familiar with that business, have proposed to bore at Galveston. It seems likely that water could be obtained in this section at a moderate depth.

The ordinary wells are from 12 to 20 feet deep, and the water is only surface water, consequently not permanent, almost always salty or alkaline. Water supply mostly from lagoons filled by rains.

TIMBER.

No timber in the country suitable for building or sawing, several kinds of wood, but trees all small or unsound, all lumber used has to be brought from some other place. Hackberry, mesquite, ebony, retama, water ash, (wisache?) and a great variety of small trees or brushes, comprising chaparral.

CROPS.

In this section, corn is the principal crop, but it seems that enough is not annually raised to more than supply local demand—some cotton, vegetables, &c., no wheat, barley or oats—soil is fertile, and with proper attention, all things suitable to the climate could probably be produced.

GRASSES.

The country between Rio Grande and Nueces is mostly prairie, and furnishes good pasture for stock; in seasons when there is any rain, grass is sufficient in quantity and of fair quality.

MINERALS.

No minerals have been seen, or heard of in this vicinity."

* * * * *

Fort Ringgold.

Report, July 12, 1879, by Major D. R. Clendenin, 8th Cavalry, commanding.

"In February, 1879, John McAllen, living at Santa Rita Ranch, in Hidalgo county, Texas, about 40 miles north of Edinburg, Texas, lost 15 saddle horses and a "bunch" of cattle, number unknown. His pasture was broken into and the animals, referred to above, were stolen by unknown persons. None of the animals were recovered. McAllen owns some 5000 head of cattle, and 2500 head of horses.

In March, 1879, Julius Guzman, at Rancho Gato, in the same county, lost 27 head of horses, which were stolen in like manner, and were not recovered. In April, Pedro Melr, living at Pedro Ranch, in same county, lost 12 horses, but recovered 10 of them in Mexico.

A shepherd, named Francisco Lopez, in charge of a flock of sheep, (blooded bucks), was killed near Santa Rita Ranch, by persons unknown, and the stock was lost.

In June, 1879, the store of H. M. Fields, at Rancho Los Lunas, in Hidalgo county, was broken into, and the principal portion of the goods stolen.

The thieves, in all the above cases, are supposed to have been Mexicans.

June 4th, a Mexican crossed the river at Roma, in Starr county, and deliberately murdered a woman in Roma, then fled to his own side of the river (Mexico).—See enclosure, marked A.

In February or March, a family passed through this post *en route* from Brownsville to Laredo. Between this place and Laredo they were attacked, and one man and one woman were killed and one woman wounded.

There are doubtless many other similar cases, but citizens seldom report these depredations to the military authorities. In most instances, they are discovered too late to gain anything by pursuit.

I am unable to designate any particular ranch or cattle owner that needs special protection. They all need it, and the only feasible plan for rendering protection is by having constant patrols passing through country at irregular intervals, and calling upon the different ranchmen for information.

The troops are closely watched by thieves, and after they have passed any given point, the thieves operate in their rear. This could be avoided by having sufficient troops so that one patrol could follow quickly on the trail of the preceding one, or by doubling on their trails, so that the thieves would be in constant danger of coming in contact with troops.

For the protection of Hidalgo, Starr, and Zapata counties, there should be at least two more companies of cavalry stationed at this post.

All scouts made by the troops of this command have been already reported. There are no mail routes in this locality that need protection, but the telegraph line should be guarded, as frequent breaks occur, caused by evil disposed persons who break down the poles or detach the wires from the insulators, apparently through innate viciousness. This occurs south of the post more frequently than north of it."

—A.—

(Abstract from evidence taken by Coroner's Jury.)

"Teodora Morales lived in Roma, Starr county, Texas. She was a married woman who had been abandoned by her husband, or at least he had left her to be only support of two children, girls. She supported herself and children by hiring out as a cook, doing washing, &c. She was about thirty years of age, and person, in whose employ she had been, say she was reliable and industrious.

A young fellow, say about 21 years old, in the absence of her husband, it appears, pestered her with his attentions for some time. It seems she had told him that she did not wish to have anything to do with him. This fellow's name is Milton Aquilar. He lived, at the time of the murder, in Mexico, at Rancho, in front of Roma.

On the morning of the 4th of June, 1879, he came over the river at the ferry, telling the ferryman that he was going up into the town on an errand, and that he wished to cross back again so as to get to his work early, and not lose the forenoon. The ferryman told him that he (the ferryman) would wait a reasonable time for him, unless some other passengers came meanwhile.

This Milton Aquilar then went direct from the ferry to the place where Teodora Morales lived, and into a kitchen where she was preparing breakfast; had some words with her, and upon her telling him she would have nothing to do with him, and that he should leave the premises, he stabbed her twice with a knife he had brought with him, evidently for that purpose. She fell dead upon receiving the second stab, with her head in the fire, which was on the ground. The elder daughter of deceased tried to pull her dead mother out of the fire, and the younger one caught the murderer by the clothes, when he dashed his fist in her face, knocking out some of her teeth, and leaving the child insensible, he ran to the ferry, about 3 blocks off, and succeeded in reaching the Mexican side of the river before the people of Roma found out what had happened. The people, however, assembled on the bank, before the murderer got away from the opposite bank, and let the authorities over there know what he had done, but could not prevail on them to let him be brought back immediately. There was some talk of getting him by force, but Mexican authorities gave notice they would defend him in such case.

[Signed.] SAM. J. STEWART,
Deputy Collector."

Report, October 18, 1879, by Major D. R. Clendenin, 8th Cavalry, commanding.

“ WELLS IN STARR COUNTY.

NAMES OF RANCHES.

Rancho Solies.....	1.	Rancho Los Zarates.....	2.
Rancho Guadalupe de Torres. . .	2.	Rancho Los Eucino de Poso.....	1.
Rancho San Ramon.....	2.	Rancho Juan Cantu . . .	1.
Rancho San Jose Viego	1.	Rancho Los Mochos	5.
Rancho Nopalera	1.	Rancho Rodregeus.....	1.
Rancho Purissima.....	1.	Rancho Colorado.....	1.
Rancho Los Viejas.....	2.	Raucha Benito Garcia.....	3.
Rancho Los Enciuitos.....	1.	Rancho Olevares.....	2.
Rancho Antonio Villarreal.....	1.	Rancho Guadalupe del Encinal....	1.
Raucha Jalvali.....	2.	Rancho Carro.....	1.
Rancho Pedro Chapa.....	1.	Rancho Pena.....	1.
Rancho Los Laureles.....	2.	Rancho Lazaro Lopez.....	1.
Rancho Santa Theresa.....	3.	Rancho Sofereno Lopez.....	1.
Rancho San Rafael.....	1.	Rancho Juan Rodregens	1.
Rancho Gonzelanio.....	4.	Rancho Alejo Garza	2.
Rancho Nuevo	1.	Rancho Baluarte. running water wells	
Rancho Leon Cito.....	1.	Rancho Los Olmas.....	1.
Rancho Longoria	1.	Rancho La Tenaja	1.
Rancho Garcia.....	1.	Rancho Los Cavallos.....	1.
Rancho Perres.....	1.	Rancho Los Mesquites....	tank wells.
Rancho San Cristobal.....	4.	Rancho Los Guerras.....	2.
Rancho Barrera.....	1.	Rancho Santa Domingo.....	2.
Rancho Las Vellas	4.	Rancho Los Cuevas....	2.
Rancho Los Federules.....	1.	Rancho Los Escobas	2.
Rancho Rubini.....	1.	Rancho San Antonio, Veljo.	6.
Rancho Lepeguaje.....	3.	Raucha Casa Verda	1.
Rancho Los Herreras.....	1.	Rancho Mesquitito.....	1.
Rancho Lucero.....	2.	Rancho Mulados.....	3.

All of the above described ranches and wells afford good and sufficient water for the ranch people and for their stock during all seasons of the year.

The strata through which these wells were dug is composed of sand, limestone, and red and white clay.

Hidalgo county contains about as many wells as Starr county, and many of them afford an inexhaustable supply of water.

Zapata county has fewer wells, and is sparsely settled, but water can be readily obtained by digging. The depth of the wells varies from 16 to 75 feet. The water of the wells is excellent in nearly all cases. In some it is slightly impregnated with lime.

TIMBER.

Timber is abundant in all these counties, and embraces many varieties, among which are live oak, mesquite, hackberry, elm, ebony and retama.

CROPS.

Two crops of corn can be raised in one year when the country is not afflicted by drought, and with ordinary care will yield fifty bushels to the acre.

Vegetables are raised at all seasons of the year. There is great chance for improvement in raising crops. The citizens are indolent and shiftless, being largely composed of Mexicans or of Mexican origin.

Sugar and cotton are raised to considerable extent in Hidalgo county.

GRASSES.

The grasses are nutritious and good, and afford fine pasturage for cattle, horses, sheep and goats. The varieties are long mesquite, curly mesquite, gramma, foxtail, aparizo, sacaton, sacahuista, and others. During droughts, the nopal, a species of cactus, afford subsistence to cattle, sheep and goats.

MINERALS.

Limestone is found in abundance, and coal (bituminous) crops out along the Rio Grande, in Zapata county. Gypsum is found in many localities. Salt is also obtained, in Starr and Hidalgo counties, from salt lakes."

Fort McIntosh.

Report, July 11, 1879, by Captain A. P. Caraher, 8th Cavalry, commanding,

"I would report, that on the 15th of March, 1879, on the Nueces river, about 50 miles above Fort Ewell, a Mexican herder was killed by parties unknown; about the 1st of May, 1879, a teamster (Mexican) going from Fort Ewell to Corpus Christi, was killed by his fellow teamster; in the latter part of June, a Mexican killed one McKay, (white) while asleep, by shooting him through the head, near Fort Ewell, and fled to Mexico.

Cases like these are rarely reported to the military authority, but there is no doubt that it is dangerous to travel between this post, Fort Duncan, Fort Ringgold and San Diego, without protection.

I would respectfully state, that the present system of patrolling, together with numerous repair parties on telegraph line, keeps the post commander well informed as to raids, depredations &c. Enclosed find map as directed."

Report, October 18, 1879, by Captain J. C. Gilmore, 24th Infantry, commanding.

"The following is gathered from many of the leading ranch owners residing in Laredo, Texas, and whom I believe to be perfectly reliable:

That a ranch about 35 miles north of Laredo, Texas, is the rendezvous of a band of Mexican cattle thieves, numbering some 30 odd, and among whom is noticed the notorious horse and cattle thief, Baptiste.

The surrounding ranchmen are in such fear of this band, that they dare not, for their lives, report any of the thefts committed by them, or take the necessary steps to have them removed.

This band is credited with innumerable depredations, among which is the theft recently of horses from Mr. Martin's ranch, and others from Mr. A. Vidaurre and neighbors.

The stock stolen by the band is crossed over the Rio Grande, between this point and Fort Duncan, Texas, and then driven towards the interior of Mexico.

These cattle thieves, if pursued too closely, have only to resort to their usual method; i.e. abandon the stolen stock and hasten into Mexico, where they find perfect security.

This privilege is by no means confined to the thieves; murderers also resort to it as a sure means of escaping the hands of justice. As an instance, I will speak of a few cases which have come under my personal knowledge, viz:

Last spring, one of the company laundresses had in her employ a Mexican woman who was fatally stabbed in the back, in broad daylight, just in the edge of the reservation, by a Mexican who made good his escape into Mexico, and has not since been heard of.

Scarcely a month since, a Frenchman (a peddler) while riding within a few miles of Laredo, was attacked, robbed and brutally murdered by a party of two Mexicans, who also escaped into Mexico.

A party of 'cow-boys' (Mexican horse thieves) visited the town last week and got into a drunken row, the result of which was the death of an ex-policeman, whom they murdered in cold blood.

Upon inquiry as to where the murderers are, the invariable reply is: 'across the river,' meaning Mexico.

These are only a few of the many horrible deeds that occur almost daily in this immediate vicinity, and the perpetration of which secure the easy and safe retreat afforded by the Mexican border to all refugees fleeing from the hands of justice.

I do not say this with any intention of reflecting on the civil authorities of this vicinity, for they certainly do the best it is possible for them under the circumstances, as the list hereto attached, and marked exhibit 'C,' will confirm.

It is unnecessary for me to reiterate, in this connection, the difficulties of getting criminals extradited from the Mexican authorities, especially if the criminal be a Mexican.

The papers hereto attached, and marked respectively 'D,' 'E,' and 'F,' are slips cut from a newspaper that has recently been started and printed in Laredo, Texas, called 'The Two Laredos.'

These articles, as well as the paper hereto attached and marked 'C,' are furnished for the information of the General Commanding, that he may be able to judge, to some extent, of the number of a certain class of persons in this vicinity; to show, also, the absolute necessity of having as many troops as possible stationed in this section of the frontier to aid in protecting the many industrious citizens who are struggling to advance their interests, that of the community and State, against the efforts to out do them of so many vile murderers, &c.

It will be observed that the slips of paper are taken from a weekly, and only extend over about two (2) months of the present year.

In reference to the other requirements of the circular herein before mentioned, I would report as follows:

WELLS.

Under this head my investigations have been confined to inquiry among the intelligent residents of Laredo, from which I am led to the following conclusions, viz:

Within a radius of three-fourths of a mile of the Rio Grande, in this county, water is found at various depths of from 67 to 91 feet. These depths being taken from two wells within this radius, which, respectively, represent the minimum and maximum depth. East of this radius—and my information is of a scope of country extending to the Nueces river—water is found at various depths from 15 to 50 feet.

The character of the water also varies; in the deep wells in the city of Laredo, the water contains large quantities of salt in solution, and at least two of which I examined appeared to be highly charged with sulphurated hydrogen gas, to such an extent as to be entirely useless for drinking purposes, and will be filled up.

These wells are 90 and 72 feet deep, and are distant from each other about 20 feet. The first, 90 feet deep, was sunk through blue sand-stone, with occasional thin strata of gypsum. The second well passed through the same formation, only that the strata of gypsum was deeper.

A well in the grounds of Acting Assistant Surgeon J. P. Arthur, U. S. Army, distant 250 yards east of high water limit of the Rio Grande, is 91 feet deep, and contains 36 feet of water, which is brackish.

The formation, discovered in the well, was blue sand-stone and clay. I desire to embody here the result of Dr. Arthur's experience in well digging in this county.

Dr. Arthur remarks the following peculiarity in the quality of well water in this locality. Those wells sunk within a certain radius of the river, say from one-half to three-fourths miles, invariably contain large quantities of salt in solution, while beyond that distance, pure good water is more likely to be obtained. Another fact worthy of note, which Dr. Arthur remarks, that water is found in the blue sand-stone strata, and is invariably impregnated, when so found, with deleterious substances.

After passing through this formation, pure water is found, and upon this fact he bases the opinion that artesian wells, sunk below this strata, would obtain an abundance of pure drinking water, and prove eminently satisfactory.

In this opinion, he was joined by every intelligent man with whom I conversed.

TIMBER.

The timber in this region of country, embraced in my investigation, is densely covered with a short stubborn growth of mesquite, suitable for fuel only, with, near the Rio Grande, occasional growths of ash and willow, palo blanco, elm, huisache and sabina, or cypress.

CROPS.

At present, the only crop raised in Webb and Encinal counties is corn, which variously produces, according to locality and season, from 25 to 45 bushels per acre.

Wool raising is the principal business in this county, which is carried on with great success and profit, one and a quarter million pounds was sheared in two weeks by owners residing in Laredo, and which was readily purchased by agents representing New York and Buffalo firms, and, in this connection, I do not think it amiss to say that a wool factory would pay well, and prove an entire success, for labor is cheap and there is no lack of material to work up.

It is the opinion of a number of gentlemen with whom I have conversed on the subject, that cotton, wine culture, barley, oats, peaches and figs, could be most profitably produced.

In addition to these, maguey, also a very valuable plant called the la chugilla or istha plant, which is fibrous and valuable for rope, &c. The botanical name is *Uca Filamentosa*.

GRASSES.

The extent, variety and qualities of useful grasses can hardly be exaggerated. This country supports a grazing population owning many thousands of animals.

The principal kind of grass being Gramille, an articulated stock, which rapidly spreads and takes fresh root in the soil from the joints, like Bermuda grass and is particularly valuable, because no drouth the country has ever sustained has entirely killed it. It always revives with a light rain.

Gramille is regarded as the best grass for horses and sheep, which animals crop closely to the ground in feeding; other grasses are the mesquite, sachehuiste, &c., there being about ten varieties in all.

MINERALS.

Bituminous coal is found along the Rio Grande, but will not, at least for many years to come, be mined, since the supply of mesquite timber for fuel is well nigh inexhaustible and remarkably cheap.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

The soil is alluvial, blue sandstone, limestone conglomerate, alpine limestone, bituminous coal, gypsum, and occasional fossiliferous beds.

Trilobites and the old oyster shells are found in large quantities in Encinal county.

The county contains no indicia of iron, copper, gold, and but very slight of silver.

The reports of stock stolen from the ranches situated about 60 miles above and below this post, and the same distance eastward, seems almost incredible. The post guide, who has been all over this section, furnishes the list hereto attached and marked 'G.' The names on the list are those of some of the principal ranchmen in this section, some of whom are well known to me, and I do not believe they would make any such claim, unless it was well founded. This list (exhibit 'G') is not submitted with any idea of showing the aggregate loss of stolen stock in this vicinity, but is simply rendered to give some idea how ranchmen, individually, are subjected to depredations, committed by the lawless bands which infest the surrounding country.

Before closing this report I would call particular attention to the raid made by Kickapoo Indians, from Mexico into this section, between April 14 and 20, 1878, reported in documents forwarded from these headquarters in April and May, 1878, and referred to in exhibit 'A.' In this raid alone, 18 persons were killed and four wounded, and 150 to 200 horses stolen.

The points marked on the map, (hereto attached) as fords are not exact, but are on or near the places where wagons can be crossed at the ordinary stage of water."

* * * * *

Post of San Diego.

Report, October 20, 1879, by Captain A.B. Kauffman, 8th Cavalry, commanding.

"The Post of San Diego is situated in Duval county, Texas, close to its eastern line that divides it from Nueces county, and is about 52 miles from Corpus Christi, to which place it is connected by railway. The post reservation comprises 160 acres; it was acquired from Richard King, of Nueces county, on a lease for 99 years, at a nominal rent of one dollar a year, with the right of the United States to become owners of the same at its pleasure, on payment of an additional dollar. The post is central in relation to San Antonio, Clark, Duncan, McIntosh, Ringgold and Brown, and is readily accessible to all. The country bearing upon this post comprises between the 26° of latitude (south of the Nueces river) and the Rio Grande; has an area of about 17500 square miles, and contains some of the finest and largest stock ranches in Texas. All of this country is well adapted for stock raising, producing, as it does, several varieties of the gramma grass; its only drawback being, in dry seasons, an insufficiency of water, there being but few springs and no permanent running streams between the Nueces river and the Rio Grande. This objection, however, is being overcome by having recourse to wells and tanks that are becoming more numerous. Water, most everywhere, can be obtained in abundance at depths varying from 40 to 150 feet. No attempt has been made, as yet, to obtain water by

artesian boring, except a partial attempt at Corpus Christi before the late war, where a well was bored 383 feet that brought a light flow of medicinal water to the surface; this well was destroyed or went to decay during the war. It is believed that a constant flow of water can be obtained anywhere throughout this section at a depth not exceeding 1200 feet. The general character of the strata underlying the country is limestone, soft and compact. The soil overlaying this formation is nowhere of any great depth. Most of the upland, besides grazing, is adapted to cotton, while along the water courses the usual southern cereal crops can be grown.

The principal timber of the country is mesquite, which is found in great abundance. No attempt has so far been made to develop the mineral resources of the country, though it is known that stone-coal exists in several localities.

The country, generally, may be pronounced unsafe from the itinerant character of the laboring classes, who are mostly Mexicans, whose homes are mostly south of the Rio Grande; large numbers of them invade the country during the sheep shearing season, which is twice a year, and generally are not particular whose horse they ride when they return home.

Besides, many of the large ranches in Zapata and Starr counties and in the southern portions of Duval and Encinal counties are owned by residents of Mexico, who mostly reside in Guerrero, Mier and Camargo, running their ranches entirely by peons or servants from their homes in Mexico, from which they are constantly passing to and from, and a stray horse never comes amiss to them. It would certainly be desirable if the owners of these ranches could be made reside in them.

There have been no raids by Indians in the locality of this post since April, 1878, when eleven persons (ranchmen) were killed. I have no data as to the number of persons killed prior to that period, nor have I data as to the number of persons that have been murdered in this vicinity since January, 1878, but have been informed by the Judge of Duval county they number over one hundred.

I would suggest that in the counties bordering on the Rio Grande, or such as might be designated by the State of Texas, the Federal troops be allowed to assist the civil authorities of the State in arresting roving parties believed guilty of crime, turning them over to the nearest civil magistrate."

* * * * *

Report, August 7, 1879, to post commander, by Second Lieutenant George E. Pond, 8th Cavalry.

"I have the honor to report that in obedience to your verbal instructions, of the 3rd instant, to proceed to Corpus Christi, Texas, and examine, obtain all information possible, and report upon the artesian well at that place; that I left this post by public conveyance on the morning of the 4th instant, and arrived at Corpus Christi that evening.

The next day I visited such of the old residents of the place, as could give me any information on the subject, and found, as follows:

The well in question was commenced in 1849, and finished the following year. It was dug by private enterprise, and the object was to obtain a supply of fresh water. The machinery and material was of the most primitive order, having a wooden tube and lined with ordinary stove-pipe iron. The well was sunk to a depth of three hundred and eighty-three (383) feet, passing through shell, quicksand, clay and compact limestone, in the order named. The thickness or angles of the strata, I was unable to learn. At this depth water flowed. It was a salt sulphurous water, at a temperature of 80°, highly medicinal, and had quite an extended reputation, being

somewhat of the nature of the water from the Hot Springs of Arkansas. The tubing was three inches in diameter, the discharge pipe, a bent musket barrel, and it yielded about five gallons per minute.

The well was destroyed during the war, and has never been repaired.

It is said, that having found the water to be medicinal, it was not put down to a greater depth, though the operator declared that he could find fresh water at no great depth. This well is at sea-level.

I conversed with a Mr. DeRyee, at one time State chemist of Texas, who claims to be conversant with the geological formation of this section. He says he will guarantee flowing wells, with unlimited supply, at about 1200 feet; the strata that crops out near Austin lying at that depth. A well dug at this post, at about 60 feet, passed through limestone most of the way, being in alternate stratas, pliable and compact.

Seepage was found at 45 feet, but no vein has yet been reached. An artesian well could easily be bored here, and, in my opinion, would be eminently successful, and this opinion seems to be universal. San Diego is about 100 feet above the sea level."

* * * * *

Endorsement, August 8, 1879, on above report, by Captain A. B. Kauffman, 8th Cavalry, commanding.

"The within report embraces about all the information obtainable in regard to the character of the artesian well at Corpus Christi.

An increase in the supply of water for this post is much needed. If water can be brought to the surface by boring, it would not only be of great service to the post, but to the whole people south of the Nueces river, engaged in grazing and agriculture."

DISTRICT OF THE NUECES.

Fort Duncan.

Report, July 8, 1879, by Captain Charles C. Hood, 24th Infantry, commanding.

"I would respectfully invite attention to 'Tabular statements of Expeditions and Scouts against marauders,' made quarterly from these headquarters for the past nine months, from which, it will be seen, no excesses whatever have been committed.

In report of expeditions and scouts for 2nd quarter, 1879, from this post, it appears that Lieutenant Crane, 24th Infantry, arrested one Dick Woods; this is a mistake.

The district commander, Colonel Mackenzie, was here when the civil authorities asked for a detail of soldiers to accompany them in making arrest of certain outlaws.

Lieutenant Crane was sent in command of detail, and Woods was arrested by, or gave himself up to, the civil authorities.

No one has applied here for protection on any account whatever since October 1, 1878, excepting a family of Mexicans living at rancho San Lorenzo, five miles below El Jardin, in the latter part of last April.

I visited the ranch and made report of the kidnapping of Thomas Gonzales and Mamel Minchaco. The report was forwarded to Department Headquarters May 1.

A detachment of cavalry from this post, consisting of one non-commissioned officer and three privates, have been kept there from that time to the present, the details being relieved monthly.

With the above recited exception, the country in the vicinity of this post has been unusually quiet during the past nine months."

* * * * *

Report, October 13, 1879, by Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Ford, 24th Infantry, commanding.

WELLS.

"There are no artesian or bored wells in this vicinity extending from here east to Carrizo settlement, north to Fort Clark, and northwest to San Felipe.

In digging ordinary wells in this neighborhood the formation is sand, gravel and clay, with an under strata of soft limestone where water is found, being strongly impregnated with lime. It is very probable that if artesian wells were sunk through this strata of lime-rock, slate and sandstone, which underlies the former, water would be obtained in sufficient quantity to force itself to the surface upon the well known theory which led to the discovery of these wells.

TIMBER.

There is no timber in this country for building purposes; what there is consists of mesquite, and is found along the valley of the Rio Grande. Mesquite and wesatche brush is found around water-holes and arroyas.

CROPS.

Crops are not raised to any extent, the interest of the country being devoted to stock, cattle and sheep raising. Corn is planted above here in the bottom lands of the Rio Grande, the soil being very rich, (made soil from overflows of the Rio Grande), but only enough for home consumption. It is believed, however, if bored wells could be introduced, large crops, such as wheat, oats and corn, could be raised upon the uplands, the soil being a sandy loam.

GRASSES.

The surrounding country produces excellent grasses, such as mesquite and gramma, and is considered the best stock country in this part of the State.

The country in this vicinity is principally rolling prairie.

MINERALS.

It is conceded that the hilly parts contain large coal and iron deposits. The Carrizo Springs, forty-five miles east of this point, contain some strongly impregnated with sulphur."

* * * * *

Fort Clark.

Report, July 10, 1879, by Colonel R. S. Mackenzie, 4th Cavalry, commanding.

"The cattle interests in this section of Texas, during the past six months, have been pushed westward about one hundred miles, that is, considerable herds have been placed on the Pecos, near Lancaster, and on the upper Devil's river; while, prior to that time, the western limit of the cattle range has been the lower Devil's river, some ten miles west of San Felipe.

The protection to the extension of business was at first given by troops from this post, stationed at old camp Lancaster, but this duty is now performed by troops from the District of the Pecos.

Indirectly, general protection will also be given to these interests by the troops employed under the recent orders of the Department Commander in locating a new route to Fort Davis, and the road, once established, will have a very important bearing, as opening a considerable tract of country to cattle and sheep.

Taking the interests of the Government and the protection of legitimate stock-raisers into consideration, it is my judgment that, first: the site of the

post should be purchased; second, detachments should be placed on the Pecos, and at points to the west, toward Fort Davis, to give protection.

I do not think that permanent garrisons should be established, but simply sub-posts sent out, and the troops relieved, from time to time, by companies from this post, and from Forts Davis and Stockton. The only permanent protection, however, to the stock interests of the section about the post, and to the west, must be given by the Mexican Government.

Depredations here are almost invariably committed by thieves from the other side of the Rio Grande. A few months ago, some effective efforts were made by the Mexican authorities, under the orders of General Trevino, to put a stop to such outrages, and in consequence, cattle stealing almost entirely ceased.

There is no question, in my mind, as to the power of the Mexican authorities to punish stealing when they wish to, and as they have recently; and the only plan seems to me to be for the Government of the United States to see that they continue to do so."

* * * * *

Report, September 24, 1879, by Colonel R. S. Mackenzie, 4th Cav., commanding.

"In connection with the post of Fort Clark, a section of country will be considered, which is included between the Nueces river, as far east as the crossing of the San Antonio road, and Sycamore creek, and extending to the north as far as the heads of the east and west forks of the Nueces, and to the south to about half way between Fort Clark and Fort Duncan.

WELLS.

There is nothing in the geological formation of the country to indicate that water may be obtained through artesian wells at any certain spot. In almost every part of the section of country embraced in the report, limestone rock is found a short distance below the surface of the ground, in most places only a few inches below it.

This is true alike of high and low land. The stone is arranged in strata which are horizontal, or nearly so. It is not a very compact texture, and is largely mixed with clay. Streams of water have, in many instances, worn channels for themselves through this rock, beneath the surface, regardless of stratification, and it is possible an artesian well might be found, by digging down to one of these streams, but, as it is almost impossible to ascertain their existence beforehand, an artesian well must be the result of accident rather than skill. In no place is there an out cropping of any than limestone, but residents of Brackett have found water at about the same level as Las Moras Creek, finding a stratum of clay and gravel, or sand and gravel, after digging through limestone. The water has always been of good quality and adapted to ordinary use. I believe that water can almost always be found at a moderate depth, by digging in the beds of dry streams, and in the low valleys, but may frequently require blasting. It is at least doubtful if water can be obtained away from such valleys without digging to a great depth, and going to a great deal of trouble and expense.

CROPS.

The country is not adapted to agriculture, and crops, generally, cannot be raised without irrigation, and even then they fail about once in seven years, as they have done during the past summer, when the streams often failed to supply enough water for irrigation. Some low valleys are sometimes cultivated without irrigation, but frequently without a successful result. The principle articles raised are corn and enough sweet potatoes,

melons, and a few other garden vegetables to supply the post and the town of Brackett. Agriculture must always be carried on here on a small scale, and it would probably be unprofitable to raise more than is now produced, on account of there being no market near.

TIMBER.

The country is almost all covered with a thick growth of mesquite chapparal, except in the rough country between the east and west forks of the Nueces, and near those two streams, heavy timber is found skirting the banks of all the streams along their entire length, and is rarely found elsewhere, and then only in small clumps; the varieties are pecan, live oak, mulberry, chusla, sycamore, hackberry, willow, and in the Nueces country scrubby cedar, and a very little pine are found on the hill sides and in cañons.

GRASSES.

The mesquite grass, very valuable for stock, is found everywhere, besides, there is a long stemmed grass which grows in patches on the prairie, called 'prairie grass,' which is cut for hay and is the same as that furnished for government animals.

MINERALS.

No minerals are known to exist."

Post of San Felipe.

Report, September 24, 1879, by Colonel R. S. Mackenzie, 4th Cavalry, commanding District of the Nueces.

"The country considered in connection with this post extends as far as Sycamore creek to the east, and to the west as far as the San Francisco, including all of Devil's river and the Pecos, as far north as old Camp Lancaster.

The remarks made concerning the country in the vicinity of Fort Clark, are also applicable to this section, as far west as the Pecos, except that there is not nearly so much mesquite chapparal.

On the Pecos there is comparatively little timber, the principal varieties being pecan, white ash and willow. West of the Pecos there is nothing but a little mesquite, and on the Rio Grande and San Francisco some willow and cottonwood. Between Devil's river and the Pecos, the country is very rough and almost all of it impracticable for wagons. Beyond the Pecos the geological character of the country changes. Along the Rio Grande, the country is exceedingly rough, but at some little distance from the river there is a beautiful grazing country, thickly covered with mesquite and four different varieties of gramma grass, but a scarcity of water. There are many places along the river where grazing is good, and where stock could get to water, but this land is not desirable on account of its close proximity to Mexico and the temptations that would be offered to Indians and other thieves.

I have made this report relative to the Post of San Felipe, myself, on account of the many changes of officers that have taken place there recently by some companies leaving the post and others going to it."

Report, October 20, 1879, by Captain J. I. Rodgers, 2nd Artillery, commanding.

WELLS.

"Wells of good water can be had in the bottoms of the large valleys, i. e., San Felipe and Rio Grande, at a depth of from 40 to 50 feet. On the pla-

teaux, or higher lands, there are valleys, or depressions, in the bottoms of which the soil is richer as indicated by the healthier and larger growth of grasses and mesquite, and other wood, where, I believe, water could be obtained by deep wells from 80 to 90 feet, and, possibly, by boring from 300 to 500 feet water might be brought to the surface, judging from the springs of bold currents, north and northwest of this point, breaking out on the surface.

The ordinary wells of this vicinity show the following strata: light buff, greyish and ash colors of sand and clay properties; yellow and pink clay, cabbie limestone, cavernous limestone, yellow gravel, light blue clay, dark blue with asphaltum properties, ending with petrified shells. Further exploration unknown. The water sheds decline towards the Gulf of Mexico. The waters, so far as is known, are charged with lime, iron, salt, gypsum and bitumen.

TIMBER.

Timber is limited, and of a dwarfy appearance, very crooked. The following are some of the varieties: live oak, mesquite, sycamore, pecan, walnut, ash, willow, mulberry, hackberry and elm.

CROPS.

Crops, by primitive and indifferent cultivation, by irrigation and without, are as follows: Corn, early and late, the former harvested in June and July, the latter in November; and for the best crops yielding 40 bushels to the acre. Oats, harvested in May, yield about 40 bushels to the acre. Onions sweet potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, melons, are planted with good results, wheat, rye, barley, would do well here, and it is said upland rice would also. There is no market for any of these products, which prevents their cultivation as a business. No fertilizers are used.

GRASSES.

Grasses are excellent, and of many varieties, mesquite predominates, and is considered most nutritious for all kinds of stock, besides a variety of brush browsing, wild millet, gramma, and other jointed grasses are in abundance in regular seasons.

MINERALS.

Undeveloped indications of iron, copper, lead, bitumen, and coal or lignite. It is believed veins reach from rich mines in Mexico into this section, the two sides of the boundary line being similar in many respects for many miles.

This vicinity back from the river is hilly and in many places rocky, with beds of drift or bench, and wholly unfit for agricultural efforts.

Rock in abundance, principally soft limestone of an argillaceous character, hard and flinty and metallic in its ring when it has been exposed to the surface, sandstone of a perishable nature, flag-flint and cobble stone.

The above is all the information I have been able to collect, and, as written, it corresponds with my own observation, and applies to the country between the Sycamore creek and Devil's river, in the vicinity of this post, for about 12 miles. It is understood that the statements of crops, as to amount of production, apply to bottom land where irrigation is practised."

DISTRICT OF NORTH TEXAS.

Fort McKavett.

Report, July 8, 1879, by Lieutenant Colonel E. S. Otis, 22nd Inf., commanding.

"I am informed by citizens, whose statements are rendered plausible by the few raids reported in the post records, that the Indians are more trouble-

some the present season than they have been for the preceding three years. I have just heard a rumor that a small band has been seen within the last few days in the Llano county, and I am trying to ascertain the truth of the rumor, in order to decide whether it is expedient to send out a small scouting party to intercept it, if possible. These Indian raiders come mostly from the north, I think. They first make their appearance in the Llano county, west of Junction City, and move out along the foot of the plains, passing in the neighborhood of Fort Terret, thence about thirty miles west of the post, on to Dove creek and the north Concho. Raiders from Mexico also visit the Llano county and pass out by Devil's river, crossing the Rio Grande about one hundred miles west of Fort Clark. Formerly, I understand, that these raiders from the north or from New Mexico, passed east of the post and over to the Kickapoo, but the country has been so settled up in that direction that they find it difficult to continue that route without being observed.

This post is situated at the western limit of the settlements; north, south and east of it ranchmen are dwelling with their families. To the south, at Pecan Springs, distant twelve miles, a ranchman has settled and has about five hundred head of cattle. Still further on, at the Copperas, there are two sheep ranches, where about five thousand sheep are herded. Then from and along Maynard's creek, at a point about 35 miles south of the post, and from thence down the Llano, to Junction City, are a number of ranchmen, estimated by some as high as thirty, who have families with them. These are mostly small ranchmen and some are engaged in farming. To the east along the San Saba river, ranchmen are found every two miles until Menardsville is reached. They have more or less stock, and their possessions in that line will probably average one hundred head of cattle to each family. North along Brady creek, and along intermediate valleys, are found a good many ranchmen, and the number of their united cattle are estimated as high as ten thousand; but this is probably an over-estimate by at least one third. But few horses are raised in the country; ranchmen purchase this stock, for the most part, in south-eastern Texas. Probably the united number of horses herded in this vicinity would not exceed five hundred.

It might be generally stated that all the inhabitants above mentioned need protection. They certainly would, should Indians continue and increase their incursions, for it would be impossible for them to unite in time to protect their homes and property upon the unexpected advent of any small band of depredators.

None of the mail routes have been recently interfered with, excepting that one between this post and San Antonio, by way of Mason and Fredericksburg. This one, I am informed, has been raided, and the mail robbed, six or seven times within the last two years. The point of attack, has, uniformly, been between Menardsville and Peg Leg, which are distant from each other about seven miles. The country there affords many facilities for concealment, both as to timber and broken surface. The depredators are supposed to be citizens living in Menard and Kimble counties. The State troops, and an efficient sheriff, are doing what they can to put an end to this lawlessness.

In regard to the Indian depredators, I neglected to state that they appear in small parties, varying in number from four or five to twenty. Their object is evidently plunder, and not murder; yet they perpetrate the latter crime when easy opportunity presents itself."

* * * * *

Report, October 7, 1879, by Colonel D. S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry, commanding.

"Twenty-four years ago I scouted over a large extent of country upon the waters of the Colorado and Brazos rivers, and whilst there are some very well marked differences in the features of the country, in soil, rocks and flora, the general features of this part of western Texas are those determined by a limestone soil and surface, with occasional outcroppings of sandstone.

WELLS.

As to the first inquiry of the circular, concerning wells, very little has been done in this newly settled country to throw any light upon the subject. The ranchmen, settled in the bottoms of the San Saba, have dug a few wells through gravel, and found water at less than twenty feet, evidently water percolating through the gravel from the river bed. Mr. Carlin, who is largely engaged in sheep raising on Los Moras creek, twenty miles east of this, has dug two wells, one forty, the other twenty-five feet in depth, in neither case penetrating through the limestone strata. In the case of the forty feet well, the limestone is soft and easy to blast; in the second well, the rock is flinty conglomerate, and very difficult to penetrate. As the limestone is above, and for the most part impermeable to water, and as the sandstone forms a lower strata, water bearing, I believe artesian boring would succeed here, and recommend the experiment, if it can be done cheaply.

The San Saba river, which rises in large springs one mile from this post, is the only stream of any importance in this county, (Menard). It is a permanent strong stream, capable of irrigating many thousands of acres. Although there is no running water a mile above this post, the valleys of the San Saba extend thirty miles to the west and south. Three dry forks unite at the springs of the river at this place; the north fork heads with the south Concho; the middle fork with Devil's river; the Terrett fork with the Llano river; the north and middle forks have large water holes at intervals of a few miles for twenty-five miles above the junction. These holes usually have good water but during severe droughts, once in five years at least, they dry up. Water may always be found by digging at these holes, but could not be depended upon for stock purposes. The Terrett valley has no water holes of any use in ordinary seasons. All the water in this country is strongly charged with the salts of lime, and all very good for drinking purposes.

TIMBER.

In this vicinity, and within fifty miles, there is no growth worthy of being called timber, yet the entire country for fifty miles about is wooded, the principal growth being the scrubby live oak and the mesquite. There is abundance of these varieties to furnish fuel for a population of stock raisers for many years to come. There is a cedar brake fifteen miles from this post, to the south, the cedar short and scrubby; on the Llano, thirty miles distant, very good cedar poles may be found. The varieties of wood are burr oak, live oak, water oak, shin oak, pecan, black walnut, water elm, red elm, china tree, hackberry, and, rarely, cherry, mulberry and bois d'arc, mesquite. Excepting this latter wood and the live oak, the varieties enumerated are found only on streams and bottom lands.

CROPS.

This year all crops have failed. Wheat, oats, rye, barley, and, to some extent, corn, have been raised in this vicinity. From information received from people of experience, I would say that corn will succeed in San Saba

bottoms two years out of five; wheat and small grains three years out of five. The crops here are by no means so certain as at Fort Mason, or the vicinity of Fredericksburg. Sweet potatoes are a tolerably sure crop. With irrigation, all crops are very luxuriant as the soil is generally very rich.

GRASSES.

For grazing purposes there is probably no part of Texas superior to this vicinity. The grasses are the varieties of the gramma, generally the mesquite grass and the buffalo grass. Meadow or prairie grass is scarce. In good seasons hay for this post is cut at eight or ten miles distant on Campbell's creek. This present year hay of rather fair quality is hauled from the Concho—fifty miles.

The San Saba has a wide bottom of good land; the Llano and Devil's river have very little arable land, but have good grazing lands.

MINERALS.

No minerals of any value are found within a circuit of fifty miles of this post up to this time.

The vicinity of Fort McKavett, Texas, and for fifty miles about, cannot be anything but a stock raising country from present indications; for this purpose it is excellently adapted, but the distance between streams of permanent water must ever be a drawback upon the value of the land, the average distance between permanent streams is about fifty miles. Should boring show that artesian wells succeed, it will add five hundred per cent to the value of the lands."

Fort Griffin.

Report, October 20, 1879, by Captain J. B. Irvine, 22nd Infantry, commanding.

WELLS.

"Water is readily obtained in this vicinity, on the lower lands, by digging wells from 12 to 40 feet deep.

Good palatable water is obtained in nearly every instance, though impregnated with limestone; there is no freestone water in this section, the general character of the country being a limestone and gypsum formation.

From the general conformation of the country I have no doubt that water could be obtained through artesian wells, or by boring, but this method will seldom be resorted to, as the country abounds in numerous springs and small streams, which, with ordinary wells sunk for convenience, afford an abundant supply of limpid water.

The earth's strata, passed through in digging ordinary wells, is alluvial soil for the first 12 or 20 feet, when a bed of sand or gravel is reached, through which water flows abundantly. On higher elevations, such as that occupied by Fort Griffin, two strata of limestone rock are encountered; the first ten feet, when a bed of blue slate stone is reached extending to a depth of 55 feet to another bed of limestone. This depth has been dug without obtaining water, except in limited quantity near the surface rock. The quality of water obtained from wells dug through blue slate stone, is found to be brackish, in fact, so much impregnated with salt that the wells are generally abandoned for domestic purposes.

TIMBER.

Timber, in limited quantities, is found skirting the larger streams, consisting of pecan, elm, cottonwood and hackberry, with some live oak. Mesquite is a common growth of the prairies and is an excellent firewood.

CROPS.

The crops now produced are principally wheat, barley and oats, some corn is raised but does not grow as thrifflly as other crops. Cotton and

sorgum does well here, and will eventually be the staple products with the first three enumerated.

GRASSES.

Mesquite grass grows abundantly in all sections; it is most valuable for stock purposes, its fattening properties far exceeding that of corn or oats, and animals grazed on this alone will do, almost, if not quite, as much work as those fed on grain.

Gramma grass is found to a limited extent, is steadily increasing from year to year, and will probably in time be one of the principal grasses relied on for grazing purposes.

Millet and Hungarian grass is cultivated to some extent for feeding stock which is housed during the winter.

Wild rye or barley grows luxuriantly along the margin of the streams, and furnishes green pasturage during the early spring.

MINERALS.

But few indications of minerals have been observed in this county as yet, some traces of copper have been discovered and a very good quality of bituminous coal has been found, which answers all the domestic purposes and ends of commerce for which that invaluable product is noted."

DISTRICT OF THE PECOS.

Fort Concho.

Report, July 15, 1879, by Colonel B. H. Grierson, 10th Cavalry, commanding.

"No depredations have been committed in the vicinity of this post since October 1, 1878, except, that in the early part of June, 1879, reports were received that stock had been stolen on the North Concho, and again, in the latter part of the same month, a party of Indians were reported to be in the vicinity of the ranches near the head of the North Concho. The marauders first referred to are, from the best information obtained, believed to have been white men, or Mexicans, and the last, Indians from the Forts Sill, or Stanton, reservation.

Attention invited to the enclosed tabular statement giving information as to scouts made, extent of country scouted over, troops engaged; showing guards at mail, &c.; and, also, to enclosed map giving the location of settlements, ranches, mail routes, &c., and embracing the surrounding country more immediately dependent upon the post of Fort Concho for protection—from which it will be seen that it requires the utmost vigilance, constant activity, and continuous scouting, on the part of the small force of troops at this post, to insure the necessary protection to settlers."

Report, October 19, 1879, by Colonel B. H. Grierson, 10th Cavalry, commanding.

"The country surrounding Fort Concho is principally open prairie, covered with mesquite grass and valuable for grazing purposes whenever water is found within convenient distances. There are a few isolated peaks and ranges of hills, or low mountains, within 8 or 10 miles of the post, and these increase in number towards the southwest, north and west, where they become more elevated and broken in character, forming rocky mesas, or table lands, with intervening mesquite valleys of considerable extent, clothed with verdure, but almost destitute of water. The soil over the greater part consists of sandy alluvium, with here and there quite extensive plateaux of high table lands covered with the fragments of disintegrating rock. In the valleys of the streams forming the main Concho

river the soil is richer in quality, and produces good crops by irrigation. To the west and northwest, on what is known as the 'Llano Estacado,' or Staked Plains, the country is gently undulating, the soil poor and sandy, and strongly impregnated with alkali, and water is found only at widely separated intervals, the result of surface drainage, and partakes more or less of the constituents of the surrounding soil, which makes it unpalatable and decidedly cathartic in its action, when used for drinking purposes.

The country surrounding Concho, and east of the Pecos river, possesses but few geological features of any interest. The underlying rocks consist of a white chalky limestone, belonging, geologically, to the cretaceous period and is so abundant that its outcropping strata can be seen in nearly every arroyo and hillside. In the immediate vicinity of the post of Fort Concho it lies just under the soil, and beneath this, a more desirable quality of stone, in unlimited quantities, can be quarried, suitable for building material. To the westward, the strata becomes softer in character and is more easily weathered into irregular masses, forming the abrupt sides of high mesas or the precipitous walls of deep canons. This peculiar feature of the rock is noticeable in the structure of Castle mountains, and in the canons and high hills bordering the Pecos river, where the table land abruptly terminates at an elevation of nearly one thousand feet above the level of the river, and the outcropping strata of rock, is exposed in precipitous cliffs of considerable magnitude.

WELLS.

The geological formation of this section of the country, so far as observed, is nearly horizontal, and the streams and dry arroyos met with, in traveling over it, are generally only cut through the soil, and wherever running water is seen, it is found flowing over the broad surface of the rock. This fact may be of some interest in determining the likelihood of flowing water being found or obtained by artesian wells, for it is the opinion of geologists, that wells of this character are not successful unless the strata passed through in boring are considerably inclined. 'Pope's Well,' near the southeastern corner of New Mexico, was not a success. I am informed, however, that artesian wells have proven successful at Fort Worth and vicinity, at a depth of from 300 to 500 feet. Water has also been obtained at moderate depths by digging wells at various points between Forts Worth and Concho, Texas.

The streams of this section are generally small, and, with the exception of the Pecos river, South Concho, Dove and Spring creeks, do not furnish a sufficient volume of water to maintain a running stream. The Middle and North Concho, and Colorado, above the mouth of the Concho, furnish running water during the rainy season, and usually only contains water in pools.

There are a number of springs, small lakes, and water holes, which generally supply, good, bad, or indifferent, rain or alkali water, found here and there throughout the country at wide distances, but not more than one fourth of them can be depended upon for an adequate supply during the summer season.

At certain points on the 'Staked Plains,' in depressions or valleys, water has been found by digging about 10 feet beneath the surface of the soil, and this method of obtaining water is employed by troops engaged in scouting. These valleys extend generally over a wide area and apparently from the source of every stream flowing from the Staked Plains.

Until quite recently, the inhabitants of this section of the State, depended upon the springs, pools and streams, for water; but during the past

year the citizens of Ben Ficklen, the county seat of Tom Green county, have sunk eight wells within the limits of the town. The formation passed through was mostly alluvium and blue clay. An abundant supply of good water was obtained at a depth of about 30 feet, in a bed of water-worn gravel. The citizens of San Angelo, a small village in the immediate vicinity of Fort Concho, have also sunk wells, and found water at a depth of from 35 to 90 feet, the strata passed through was mainly limestone, which had to be blasted the entire distance.

At Centralia stage station, which is located on the Staked Plains, about 30 miles west of the head of the Concho river, and 90 miles from this post, a well was dug to the depth of 80 feet through six or seven different layers of alluvium, clay, sand and gravel to the bed rock, where a small stream of water was struck, but it not proving sufficient for the wants of the stage company, the well was blasted 20 feet deeper into the rock, and labor finally suspended on account of not meeting with more water. This well, in rainy weather, furnishes plenty of water, but during the dry season, it completely fails, and water for the use of the stage stock is obliged to be transported about 30 miles.

This enumeration comprises all the wells known to have been sunk in this section, and as they have in every instance—except in the case of the one just mentioned—proven successful in furnishing a plentiful supply of water, the indications for meeting with similar success at other points is equally as promising.

The country in every direction is intersected by broad alluvial flats, covered with a thick growth of mesquite. The soil over wide areas is composed of sand and gravel, with a little clay, and is so porous that it will not retain water on the surface. The water after a hard rain is speedily absorbed, and as it must accumulate at lower levels, near bed rock, it is believed water can be obtained at moderate depths, over a wide extent of country.

The limestone frequently outcrops, and is exposed over considerable surface. It also forms the floor and walls of numerous dry arroyos, and at such places in the vicinity of traveled roads, tanks could easily be constructed to retain the drainage of the country. A few tanks, built in this manner, would prove of great value to troops, government and other wagon trains, which are now obliged to travel in dry weather, in many places from 30 to 60 miles without meeting with permanent water.

TIMBER.

There is very little timber found in western Texas, and supplies of lumber for building purposes are, from necessity, transported from the eastern and northern portion of the State. The streams, as a usual thing, are fringed with a growth of pecan, oak, elm, hackberry, and, in some instances, live oak trees. The mesquite grows abundantly all over the country, and affords an unlimited supply of fuel. In the brakes of the hills along the Pecos river, and some of the low mountain ranges elsewhere, especially to the northwest of this post, cedar and live oak of good sizes can be obtained.

CROPS.

The area of soil now under cultivation and devoted to the growth of agricultural products, on account of the scarcity of water for irrigation, is not extensive. There are a few good farms located on the South Concho, Dove and Spring creeks. The crops produced during a favorable season, compare favorably with similar efforts in the better portions of the State. All the small grains do well when sufficiently irrigated. Corn, oats,

wheat and barley, grow luxuriantly, and vegetables are reported to pay a handsome profit for the labor and time expended in their cultivation.

The scarcity of water for irrigation is the greatest drawback to the successful pursuit of agriculture in this section. The land is favorably located for farming, but the seasons are so dry, the earth becomes parched and vegetation burned up by the extreme temperature.

During the past eight years the average amount of rain-fall, per month, has been 2.01 inches; the amount of moisture in the atmosphere, per annum 60.19; and the average amount of radiation or evaporation during the same time or period 67.39; from which it will be observed that the radiation more than counterbalances the amount of moisture in the air.

The climate is very dry, and the quantity of snow falling hardly perceptible. In consequence of these natural obstacles to profitable agriculture, the raising of cattle and sheep forms the chief industry of the inhabitants of this part of the State. Stock ranches are located in the valleys of all the streams, and wherever a spring, or permanent pool of water, can be found to furnish a sufficient quantity of water. The cattle roam over the country, and are often to be seen in large herds some distance beyond the limits of civilization. In this connection, attention is invited to report and map, forwarded from these headquarters, relative to this subject, on July 15, 1879.

GRASSES.

The grasses grow luxuriantly throughout this region, and cover the surface of the ground with a verdure suitable for every kind of grazing. The curly mesquite, black gramma, buffalo, wild rye, oat-top, bunch and wire grass are the principle varieties.

MINERALS.

There have been, thus far, no valuable minerals discovered in this part of the State; extensive deposits of iron occur at various points. There is considerable coal near the Brazos river, and lately coal has also been discovered on the Colorado. Copper ore, said to be of good quality, has been found near Kiowa Peak, and Gilbert's creek, south of Red river, and north of Fort Concho, about 200 miles."

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Fort Stockton.

Report, July 25, 1879, by Captain D. D. Van Valzah, 25th Inf'y., commanding.

"The C. Bain & Company's mail route is continually guarded by a system of station guards, stage escorts and mounted patrols, a distance of about 90 miles, to Centralia, Texas, and west, towards Fort Davis, whenever any event renders it necessary, or guards are called for. The ranches, stock and grain, of Mr. Cessario Torres, on the Pecos, 45 miles east, both comprising 6,500 acres, extend on both sides of the Pecos, in some places three miles from its banks, and are ten miles long. The Francis Rooney ranches, grain and cattle, are some 45 miles northwest from post, on Pecos, extent unknown.

These ranches have small Mexican settlements on each, whose numbers have been sufficient to deter attacks if any were premeditated, and never have required a day's permanent protection from the post in the past four or more years.

They have been frequently traversed by scouting parties which have generally been deemed, and accepted, as adequate protection.

The Pecos bottom, for some 200 miles,—say from mouth of Delaware creek to old Camp Lancaster,—is used largely and almost wholly, as a cattle range, particularly the northern bank; no protection has been requested from the various cattle camps on that stream, and no trouble of serious import is probable under the present status of affairs. The ranches in the more immediate vicinity of the post are amply protected by the post."

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Report, November 10, 1879, by Lieutenant Colonel M. M. Blunt, 25th Infantry, commanding.

"In this statement made about the country in this vicinity, my remarks will embrace Pecos county, in which this post is situated, the county town of which is St. Gall, in the immediate vicinity of the post.

The boundaries of this county are as follows: north, the river Pecos; on the west, by line, from the mouth of San Francisco creek, on the Rio Grande, to Barilla springs; from Barilla springs to San Martin spring, near Gomez peak, and from San Martin spring to the mouth of Delaware creek on the Pecos; the other boundaries are, the rivers Pecos and Rio Grande.

WELLS.

I have no knowledge as to the success of any attempt to bore artesian wells. The few wells which have been dug in the vicinity of this place, have penetrated a hard compact gravel almost like rock, requiring the pick to break and loosen it; and, at times, limestone.

The quality of the water resembles that of the Comanche creek, very free from vegetable impurities, but strongly characterized as alkaline; such is the character of much of the water from many springs in this country. Sulphur being an important foreign element in many; I cite, as an illustration, the Escondido springs, also Leon Water Holes, about ten miles west of here, and springs, also, to the north of the post.

The water of the Pecos is also alkaline, and charged with earthy matter, giving it usually a red and muddy appearance.

TIMBER.

There is very little timber in the county. The scouts have found, about 70 miles southwest of the post, pine, large enough to be useful for making timber for building purposes.

This is a mountainous country. In the vicinity of Pena Blanca, and Pena Colorado, the extent of the pinery has not been determined.

There are, also, cedars in the same range of hills and mountains, but, as a whole, the country is very destitute of trees for timber, or even for fuel, the roots of the mesquite bush or tree being used entirely for fuel; this tree seldom attains a height of over ten feet, it is usually much lower in height.

CROPS.

The crops of Pecos county are: barley, oats, wheat and corn; more small grain was raised in the year 1879 than in any previous year; it will be increased, perhaps, fifty per cent in the year 1880.

GRASSES.

The grasses are considered, in this county, very good, and are very extensive, particularly in the south and southwest portion of the county, bordering on the Rio Grande; many valleys containing several thousand acres of fine grazing land.

When there are no permanent waters, by digging in the dry water courses, water can often be found at reasonable depths.

There are about eight thousand acres of land under cultivation in this county, all watered by irrigation.

MINERALS.

Of the minerals, very little is known, though the surveying parties connected with railroads have found signs of silver and gold in the hilly country south of this post, say sixty or seventy miles.

As a whole, the country may be said to be chiefly suitable for grazing for both sheep and cattle. The increase of the cattle business, in the number of ranches and cattle, is very marked; many water holes and springs being taken up as centres of cattle ranches.

The few streams running towards the Pecos furnish water for irrigation. These and the Pecos, Comanche creek, (on which this post is situated), Toyah and San Rosa creeks.

The cultivation of the crops above mentioned is limited by the amount of running water; the limit of cultivation has been nearly reached in the vicinity of this post, but the Pecos affords a large amount of water, and thousands of acres of land can be irrigated by it; already, quite extensive ditches are dug near the crossing of the stage road, and crops of corn, etc., are now planted."

Fort Davis.

Report, July 11, 1879, by Captain L. H. Carpenter, 10th Cavalry, commanding.

"I have the honor to report that no raids, massacres, depredations or damages have been committed by Indians or Mexicans, or other lawless bands, in the vicinity of this post since the 1st of October, 1878, that have not been reported, except that an Englishman, named John Clarkson, supposed to be insane, was killed near Van Horn's Wells by Mexicans, for his money, May 18, 1879. No scouts have been made from this post since October 1, 1878, which have not been reported.

I enclose, herewith, a map of the country under military surveillance from this post, showing all settlements, cattle and other ranches, and roads leading to and from the post.

Limpia Canon, running northeast from Fort Davis, is sparsely settled with cattle and other ranches, for a distance of 14 miles from the post. As the main road to Stockton runs through this canon, with a great deal of travel thereon, and the post is in the immediate vicinity, no danger to the settlers is thought to exist that they cannot protect themselves against, and no further military protection is needed.

Mr. George Crosson is engaged in sheep raising in the vicinity of the post, to the southeast. As he usually herds and winters his sheep in a mountainous locality close to the route usually traveled by Indians passing from New Mexico to Mexico, a guard of four men have been furnished to him for several weeks in spring and fall to give some protection and confidence to his herders.

Along the road to Presidio del Norte a few ranches are located, but these are in a section not disturbed by Indians, and no depredations have been committed in their vicinity for years, and those living there do not seek any further protection, nor is any needed.

Russell's ranch, (Riodoso), situated about 40 miles up the Rio Grande from Presidio del Norte, is a settlement of 100 or more people, principally Mexicans, engaged in agriculture and stockraising. Raids have been made on this ranch by Indians, but as the settlement is growing stronger, and the Mexican authorities have been active in correcting the band of Mesca-

leros near San Carlos,—thus breaking up a camp of savages who were dangerous to the settlements near Presidio del Norte.—It is not thought probable that Russell's ranch will be disturbed in the future.

The country along the Rio Grande, above Russell's, as far as Quitman, affords splendid lands for irrigation and cultivation, and would probably have been covered with settlements long since were it not for the danger of Indians, who, in passing from the Fort Stanton reservation to Mexico, have made this vicinity one of their principal 'runways.'

The distance from Fort Davis is too great for complete protection to this section, and I am of the opinion that a military force should be permanently stationed on the Rio Grande, between Fort Quitman and Russell's ranch, at some central place, in order to protect and encourage the settlement of this portion of the Rio Grande.

Below Del Norte, on the Rio Grande, the country is mountainous, rocky, and of no value. No settlers will ever locate there, and, therefore, it seems that no military protection will be needed in that direction.

To the northeast of Fort Davis, the settlement of Victoria is situated, on Toyah creek, in an open country, about 30 miles from the post, scattered along the creek for a distance of 2½ miles, containing a population of nearly 1000, principally Mexicans, engaged in agriculture and possessing some stock. No danger to the settlement exists, except from stock thieves, and the people are able to protect themselves. A few cattle camps are located on the Pecos, constantly moving to obtain good grazing. As long as the present system of keeping detachments of troops stationed at various out-posts, with constant scouting in the field therefrom, during the summer or season of active operations, I think that all the settlements and ranches are afforded more complete protection than can be given in any other way: the Indians being kept in a state of constant alarm, and thereby confined to the reservation.

The Texas and El Paso Stage Co. run a daily line of vehicles—2 4-mule stages per week, and on other days buggies—through Fort Davis to El Paso, carrying the mail. A guard of 4 soldiers is placed at each of the stations, and an escort to the stage furnished whenever desired or requested. No further guard is thought necessary.

The mail on the routes from Fort Davis to Presidio del Norte, and from Fort Davis to Fort Stanton, are carried on horse-back, but no escort or guard is considered necessary."

Report, October 28, 1879, by Major N. B. McLaughlin, 10th Cavalry, commanding.

WELLS.

"In my opinion, water can be obtained in the valleys and plains throughout a vast extent of territory by artesian wells. From the Vehiha range to the Apache range, near Fort Davis, the land is in the form of a vast basin, many thousands of acres in extent, without any water on its surface during most of the year, well adapted to grazing, with that exception, but from its formation, with great water sheds extending into it, the shelving, or leaning nature of the strata of rocks, indicate to me the presence of water beneath the surface at a depth which can be reached by artesian wells. The vast expanse of plain, leading into the valley of the Rio Grande, west from Sierra Diable, receives the shed of water from that range, the rocks shelving, or dipping, that way, and there it is thought that artesian wells would reach water.

In the valley, between the parallel ranges of Sierra Diable and Pessuno Caballo, the waters found are too much impregnated with salt for drink-

ing purposes; there is but little grass; in fact, the valley is a continuation of the 'salt plains,' and of the plains in which the salt lakes lie to the north.

To the north, in the vicinity of the Guadalupe mountains, on their eastern slopes, there is no difficulty in obtaining water at all times, from large springs and streams, and in the adjacent low lying lands, where there are no springs and streams, water can no doubt be obtained by wells.

In the flat country bounded by the Peeos, followed down to a point northeast of here, it is thought that by artesian wells, at a considerable depth, water would be found. There is a tract of land, going east from Barrilla springs to Leou holes, (say 40 miles), where it is not thought that water could be found, and where it would be useless for the most part, as there is no grass, the country appearing as an arid waste.

To the southeast and south, for a distance of 65 or 75 miles, there are level plains, well grassed, with here and there springs; in the valleys, at that distance, are the heads of small streams, running to the south, such as San Francisco creek, Lai Maiabillos, &c. From the formation of the strata in the mountains, the presence of numerous springs therein, and the general appearance of the country, I believe that artesian wells could be sunk with success.

The country to the south, southeast and southwest, for a hundred miles, is much better watered than to the north, or, in fact, than it is in any other direction for that distance.

In the immediate vicinity of Fort Davis, or near the Apache range, there will be but little trouble in obtaining water by artesian wells, as it is there that water holes are found, such as El Muerto, Seven springs, &c., fed from springs. Running water courses, at dry seasons, are almost unknown throughout this country, the water, at those seasons, being found in holes at different points along the beds of the streams.

The geological formation of the country tends to throw the water as a rule into the basins formed, it seems, for that purpose only, lying at the feet of the mountain ranges, or of isolated mountains.

Of the ordinary well but few tests have been made, in fact, but two wells have been dug at a distance from water courses, one of them at Van Horn, on the El Paso route, about 75 miles from the post. This well was dug to a depth of 148 feet, passing first through alluvium, then gravel, which was penetrated to a great depth, but no indication of water appearing, the digging was discontinued. The other well was dug in Dog canon, east of Barrilla station, about 40 miles east of the post, going first through a strata of clay, then coming to gravel, into which a great depth was dug, but no indications of water found.

All water in this country is impregnated with salts of lime, &c., but is not deleterious to health or unpleasant to the taste.

CROPS.

From Pulvo, *via* Del Norte, to Russell's ranch, on the Rio Grande, there are a few scattered ranches, and between the river and this post are several others. Upon these places, by a system of irrigation, the proprietors raise crops of grain, and some vegetables.

Corn is grown, but without rain does not produce more than half as great a crop as where the rain fall is greater.

Wheat, barley, oats, and some rye, are cultivated, with fair success. The sweet potatoe grows well; but the white and Irish potatoe is a failure.

Tomatoes and melons are prolific.

On Toyah creek, all grains can be, and are, grown; but corn is the largest crop, more than equaling, probably, all the others combined. By

supplying plenty of water, away from the streams which irrigate all tilled lands, good crops could be raised. Of course the cereals would develop better if there was a rain fall of greater extent, more frequently distributed.

TIMBER.

The timber throughout the country is exceedingly scarce. On the mountains, north, east, and west, some scrub oak, some red cedar, and some ash, in canons, occasionally, is found.

The pinon and red cedar, in the mountains south, are found. On the Guadalupe range there is heavy pine timber, extending up to, and in the Sacramentos. There are a few scattered mesquite here in this section, but not sufficient to rely upon for fire wood.

GRASSES.

The whole extent of the country may be said to be covered with grass, excepting where hereinbefore mentioned.

The black gramma prevails on the Rio Grande and in nearly all the valleys for an immense distance around. On Toyah creek, there is the 'to-baso,' an evergreen which is nutritious the entire year. Some little buffalo grass appears in places.

MINERALS.

It is impossible to convey an idea of the mineral resources of this country in a sketch of this kind; a patient investigation of a year, and a report on that subject alone, would be necessary to give an idea knowingly. The general geological character of this country may be said to be of metamorphic sandstone formation—lava thrown up by internal heat; volcanic dikes of igneous rock are seen in all parts of the country; calcareous rocks, shaly rocks, and shale and quartz rock are found almost everywhere in the south.

Traces of ore, iron, silver and gold have been found about 60 miles south and east of this post, and it is generally understood that in the Cbenati mountains silver ore of great value has been mined.

Owing to no person being available here at this time, who is thoroughly acquainted with the country, and from want of personal observation of much of it, it is only possible at this time to give a vague sketchy report of the subjects submitted.

It may be said that it is believed that water can be obtained in almost any of the valleys; that fair crops can be grown, and that it would be an excellent grazing country if water were so obtained."

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *December 1, 1879.*

THOMAS M. VINCENT,

Assistant Adjutant General.

F.

As sent to the Adjutant General of the Army, is the military map of Western Texas, compiled, under the direction of the Department Commander, by the Chief Engineer Officer of the department, and his Topographical Assistants.

It indicated the location of all the posts, ranches and settlements, on the frontier line, from the mouth of the Rio Grande,—northwardly to Fort Griffin, and westwardly to Fort Davis.



G.

[In connection with E, and the report therein of Captain J. C. Gilmore, 24th Infantry, commanding Fort McIntosh. D, E and F, the newspaper slips referred to in said report, have been forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Army. Not deemed necessary to print to accompany this.]

—C—

List of persons indicted for murder in Webb county by the Grand Juries, since January 1, 1878, compiled from the records by First Lieutenant H. F. Leggett, 24th Infantry, Acting Post Adjutant:

- The State of Texas *versus* Manuel Aguilar; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Tillispro Peredz; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Doratim Sanchez; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Benizru Ayala; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Francisco Garcia; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Manuel Dovoline; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Lazari Pareda; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Doroter Sanches; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Ygnacio Villalon; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Richardo Quiales; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Ensebeo Salinas; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Edward P. Turner; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Wallace Uttinger; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Tulgencie Valdes; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Felix Gonzales; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Eduardo Dovalino; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Anastacio Sandoval; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Rafael Pinalez; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Eusaber Salinas; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Simin Genterrez; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Cuncensie Uvalde; murder.
- The State of Texas *versus* Santos Costello; murder.

It is worthy of remark, in this connection, that these names do not represent the whole list of persons guilty, or presumably guilty, of homicide, during the period comprised in the investigation; and further, that in one instance, three persons, all jointly indicted for one murder; and in another instance, one person is indicted four separate times for as many homicides.

—G.—

The following (submitted by the post guide) is a list of horses and cattle reported to have been stolen by Mexican thieves, since January 1, 1879, from ranch owners, most of whom are residents of Laredo, Texas:

Names,	Horses.	Cattle,	Total Loss.
Nicholas Sanchez	60	200	260 head.
Santiago Sanchez	21	.....	21 head.
Peter Stiffian	18	150	168 head.
Jesus Garcia	9	.....	9 head.
Justo Guirro	5	.....	5 head.
Juan Ortiz	8	.....	8 head.
S. Embroso	5	.....	5 head.
Sam Wolcott	20	.....	20 head.
Quinio Bergartl	2	2	4 head.





